

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 EB-11 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02

LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGR-20 RSR-01 PA-03 PRS-01

USIA-12 NSC-10 SS-15 STR-08 CEA-02 L-03 H-02 /163 W

----- 100587

R 181041 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9779

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EAID, BG

SUBJECT: FOODGRAIN SITUATION REMAINDER CY 73

BEGIN SUMMARY: CHARGE RECEIVED APPEAL FROM SECRETARY PLANNING COMMISSION (PC) FOR U. S. ASSISTANCE IN MEETING POSSIBLE FOODGRAIN SHORTAGE DURING LAST PART CY 73. SECRETARY POINTED TO REDUCED AVAILABILITY OF U. S. SHIPMENTS DURING PERIOD AND RECENT LOSSES OF BORO CROP AS BASIS FOR REQUESTING ASSISTANCE IN GETTING U. S. TITLE II SHIPMENTS AND/ OR DIVERSION FROM OTHER U. S. GRAIN CONSUMERS. MISSION REQUESTS SOME REASSURING INFORMATION OR ACTION ON PREVIOUS REQUESTS TO REDUCE CONCERN OF BDG. END SUMMARY.

1. CHARGE, ACCOMPANIED BY USCOR ACTING COORDINATOR, MET 18 MAY WITH SECRETARY PC AT HIS REQUEST TO DISCUSS CURRENT FOOD SITUATION. SECRETARY PC STATED NEW CONDITIONS PROMPTED HIM TO MAKE SPECIAL APPEAL TO CHARGE FOR ASSISTANCE IN AVOIDING POSSIBLE CRITICAL FOOD SHORTAGES.

2. RECALLING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE STATEMENTS OF MR. MACDONALD DURING HIS RECENT VISIT, THE SECRETARY STATED THE BDG HAD PLANNED ON 600 THOUSAND TONS OF WHEAT FROM THE U. S. IN THE FIRST HALF OF

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FY 74 - 300 THOUSAND UNDER THE GRANT AND 300,000 UNDER PL 480
TITLE I. FROM THE MISSION HERE AND FROM BD EMBASSY WASHINGTON,
HE RECOGNIZES ALLOCATIONS WILL PROBABLY BE 500 THOUSAND FROM BOTH
SOURCES AND THAT IS QUESTIONABLE THAT AVAILABILITY AND SHIPPING
WILL ALLOW IT ALL TO BE RECEIVED BEFORE END NOVEMBER 73. SECRETARY
SEES THIS AS 100 THOUSAND PLUS MT SHORTFALL FROM PLANNED SUPPLY
TO COVER REMAINDER CY 73. PARENTHETICALLY HE ADDED SHIPMENTS
ARRIVING AFTER NOVEMBER QUOTE DO US NO GOOD UNQUOTE.

3. ADDITIONAL SHORTFALL STEMS FROM RECENT EARLY STORMS AND FLOODS
WHICH HAVE CUT INTO BORO HARVEST AND HINDERED AUS PLANTING.
PC SAID FOOD MINISTRY HAS REVISED BORO PRODUCTION ESTIMATE TO
2.0 MILLION MT OR 240 THOUSAND TONS LESS THAN SECOND CHANDLER
ESTIMATE. FYI: SECRETARY AT THIS MEETING DID NOT MENTION RE-
DUCTION IN BDG PURCHASES FROM 1.2 MILLION TO 1.06 MILLION
OCCASIONED BY FALLOUT OF RICE CONTRACTS. ASSUME THIS WAS
OVERSIGHT IN MAKING HIS CASE. END FYI.

4. AFTER IDENTIFYING ABOVE TIMING AND QUANTITY SHORTFALLS, SECRETARY
MADE PITCH TO CHARGE FOR U. S. ROLE IN ASSISTING BANGLADESH BY
MAKING AVAILABLE TITLE II FOODGRAINS TO MEET TONNAGE REQUIREMENTS
AND BY REQUESTING DIVERSION OF FOODGRAINS CONSIGNED TO OTHERS SO
THAT ARRIVALS COULD BE SCHEDULED TO MEET PRE- AMAN DEMAND. CHARGE
EXPLAINED AGAIN PROBABLE UNAVAILABILITY OF TITLE II AND THAT OVERALL
SHORTAGE OF FOODGRAINS AND SHIPPING WERE CONTROLLING FACTORS IN
SITUATION, BUT THAT HE WOULD RELAY THE SECRETARY'S REQUEST TO WASH-
INGTON TO RE- EMPHASIZE BANGLADESH'S CASE.

5. THE CHARGE REFLECTED ON THE SECRETARY'S REQUEST FOR DIVERSION
BY INFORMING HIM OF THE PRESS REPORT IN THE LOS ANGELES TIMES
THAT SPECIAL ENVOY SIDDIQUE WAS REPORTEDLY GOING TO ASK THAT BDG
REQUEST THE RUSSIANS TO DIVERT SOME OF THEIR SHIPMENTS OF U. S.
GRAIN TO BANGLADESH. THE SECRETARY PROFESSED NOT TO HAVE KNOWN
OF THIS REPORT BUT GAVE THE IMPRESSION IT WAS NOT THE FIRST TIME
HE HAD THOUGHT OF THE POSSIBILITY.

6. ALTHOUGH ALL OF THE ARGUMENTS AND FIGURES PRESENTED BY THE
SECRETARY HAVE GONE OVER AGAIN AND AGAIN AND PRESENTED IN
PREVIOUS MESSAGES, TODAY'S MEETING WITH CHARGE REPRESENTED
A NEW LEVEL OF CONCERN AND APPEAL. THE MISSION HOPES WASHINGTON
CAN RESPOND TO THESE REQUESTS AS SPECIFICALLY AS POSSIBLE SINCE WE
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BELIEVE AS MUCH OF THE CURRENT CONCERN BY THE BDG IS RELATED
TO THE LONG DELAYS IN POSITIVE RESPONSES TO THEIR PREVIOUS
REQUESTS FOR ALLOCATIONS AS IT IS TO NEW SHORTFALLS OR REQUIRE-
MENTS FOR EXPANDED ALLOCATIONS. UNEASINESS WITH DELAYS WAS
ALSO INDICATED BY SECRETARY'S QUESTION RE WHEN WE COULD SIGN
NEXT TRANCHE OF GRANT. ANY ACTION ON USG PART SUCH AS PER-
MISSION TO SIGN DOLLARS 45 MILLION TRANCHE WOULD REASSURE BDG

CONSIDERABLY.

DECLASSIFY MAY 18, 1974.

NEWBERRY

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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